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Syngenta Announces U.S. Phase-out Of Molinate Rice Herbicide

Syngenta Crop Protection Inc. has announced a five-year phase-out of its molinate rice herbicide business in the United States. The voluntary phase-out, detailed in an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will culminate in the cancellation of technical and end-use molinate registrations, including Syngenta Ordram herbicide, by June 30, 2008. Use of molinate products will be permitted through the 2009 growing season.

U.S. rice growers have used molinate for more than three decades to control problem watergrass and other grassy weeds, increase yields and manage herbicide resistant weeds. Syngenta is the sole manufacturer of molinate herbicides in the United States. Syngenta molinate products include Ordram 8E, Ordram 15G and Ordram 15GM herbicides. Through an agreement with Syngenta, **RiceCo LLC** markets Arrosolo herbicide (a pre-mix of molinate and propanil).

"Multiple factors contributed to our decision to exit this business," said Rusty Wendt, Syngenta product manager. "The investment required to maintain molinate registrations, in light of a changing rice market in California and the southern United States and certain regulatory challenges, could no longer be justified."

Molinate, first registered for use in 1964, is now undergoing re-registration by EPA. An amended registration, reflecting the terms of the phase-out agreement, is expected third quarter 2003.

Source: Company Release

Mid America CropLife Association (MACA)

11327 Gravois Road, Suite. 201

St. Louis, MO 63126

info@maca.org

Office Staff

Bonnie McCarvel, Executive Director

Bill Wobbe, Office Assistant

(800)625-2767

(314)849-9446

fax (314)849-0988

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